

Story of the first HONEY Label

Vehicule published *Honey*, my first chapbook, in 1973. Before the book's production, while on a road trip with Francois Déry, I bought some creamed honey in Kamloops. Tasting local honeys is one of the joys of traveling. That honey was delicate and smooth, and I thought the label would make for a perfect cover. I wrote to Campbell Jones for permission to use it and offered to buy the labels. He mailed me a stack but wouldn't accept any payment. A copy of the book would suffice. When



Honey came out, we had to glue on every label, since they weren't gummed. I sent Jones his copy. It didn't take long for me to receive a note, from Campbell Jones' wife Priscilla. The envelope had a distinct sharp feel.

Paraphrasing her handwritten note:

This is the worst bunch of garbage we've ever read. You must be some kind of drug addict hippy. We're sorry we ever sent you the labels.

It was the most adamant rejection letter I've ever received. For the second edition (1977), we used the same label, gummed, and minus the identification of honey type and apiary. I hope that Campbell and Priscilla enjoyed many years of good health and abundant harvests from their hives in Thompson Valley, in the decades before Colony Collapse Disorder.

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1/28/2013